

# NATURE IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

## EXPLORER GUIDE

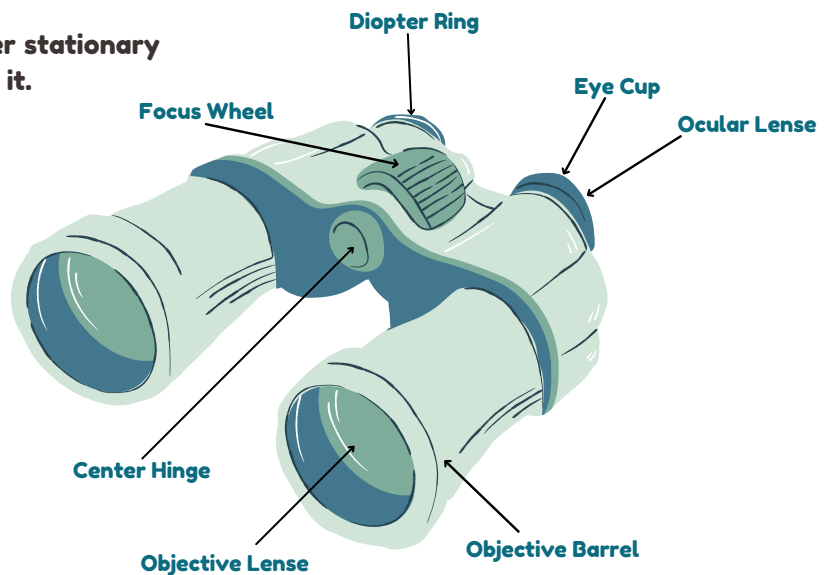
### EPISODE 2: THE BRRRRR IN BIRDING

#### FOCUS ON SUCCESSFUL BIRDING

When adjusting your binoculars, find a sign or other stationary object, and stand approximately 30 feet away from it.

#### BINOCULARS BY THE NUMBERS:

When browsing retailers for your first pair of binoculars, you'll notice they are sorted by a combination of two numbers: 8x42, 10x50, etc. The number listed first is the magnification power and the second is the diameter in millimeters of the objective lens. Larger diameters let in more light and show better detail, but also become heavier. For beginners, we recommend a magnification of 7 or 8, and a diameter between 25 and 40 .



#### ADJUST THE EYE CUPS

Each eye piece has adjustable eye cups. If you wear glasses, they should be down. If not, they should remain up.

#### ADJUST THE WIDTH

The center hinge allows eyepieces to move in and out. To adjust- spread the eyepieces as far apart as they will go, and put them up to your eyes. Then, move them together until the view merges into one.

#### SET THE FOCUS

The focus wheel changes the focus of both eyepieces at once. Use the focus wheel to re-focus your binoculars every time you look at a new bird. Most binoculars also come with a diopter ring which allows you to set the binoculars for your particular eyes- adjust this only once. Assuming your diopter ring is on the right eyepiece:

1. Turn the focus wheel and diopter ring counter-clockwise until they stop. Close your right eye, and looking through the left eyepiece with your left eye, turn the FOCUS WHEEL until your object is in focus.
2. Close your left eye, and looking through the right eyepiece, turn the DIOPTER RING until your object is in focus. Now, your binoculars are adjusted just for YOU!

#### BIRDS IN FOCUS

To search for birds, scan for movement with your naked eye. Once a bird is in view, continue to follow it with your naked eye. Then, bring the binoculars to your eyes. This will make it much easier to find the bird through your binoculars. Once you can see the bird through your binoculars, adjust the FOCUS WHEEL until the image is clear.

## THE FOUR KEYS TO BIRD IDENTIFICATION

Many novice birders make the mistake of focusing on field marks when learning bird identification. Field marks are specific details of plumage, like wing bars, eye-rings, and rump patches. While field marks can be useful, they are often overwhelming for beginners. The Cornell Lab of Ornithology suggests new birders begin by looking at the larger picture- what they call, "The Four Keys of Bird Identification".

### 1. Shape & Size



### 2. Color Pattern



### 3. Behavior



### 4. Habitat



## AMERICAN ROBIN

### Size & Shape:

Fairly large songbird with a large, round body, long legs, and a fairly long tail



### Color Pattern:

Gray-brown bird with warm orange underparts and dark head. White patch under lower belly and tail.

### Behavior:

Often seen bounding across lawns or standing erect, beak tilted upward. Large flocks in fall and winter.

### Habitat:

Gardens, parks, yards, golf courses, fields, as well as deciduous woodlands.

## CEDAR WAXWING

### Size & Shape:

A sleek songbird with a swept back crest, plump body and square-tipped tail



### Color Pattern:

Silky gray-brown, with yellow belly and red and yellow accents on wings and tail

### Behavior:

Often in large flocks, eating berries or catching insects over open water, giving high trilling call

### Habitat:

Woodlands, orchards, parks, and treed suburbs

Complete the following Four Key profiles by visiting [allaboutbirds.org](http://allaboutbirds.org)

## CAROLINA CHICKADEE

### Size & Shape:



### Color Pattern:

### Behavior:

### Habitat:

## HOUSE FINCH

### Size & Shape:



### Color Pattern:

### Behavior:

### Habitat:

## NORTHERN FLICKER

**Size & Shape:**



**Color Pattern:**

**Behavior:**

**Habitat:**

## CAROLINA WREN

**Size & Shape:**



**Color Pattern:**

**Behavior:**

**Habitat:**

## TUFTED TITMOUSE

**Size & Shape:**



**Color Pattern:**

**Behavior:**

**Habitat:**

## EASTERN BLUEBIRD

**Size & Shape:**



**Color Pattern:**

**Behavior:**

**Habitat:**

## RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD

**Size & Shape:**



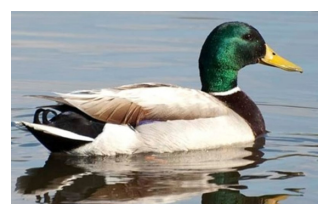
**Color Pattern:**

**Behavior:**

**Habitat:**

## MALLARD

**Size & Shape:**



**Color Pattern:**

**Behavior:**

**Habitat:**



# THE BRRRRR IN BIRDING BINGO

Grab your bird guide, binoculars, and coat... it's time to go birding! These common winter birds can be found in Frisco's natural areas. Play traditional bingo or blackout the entire board!



# FRISCO BIRDING CHECKLIST

There are over 300 bird species found in Frisco! This birding checklist contains common and migratory birds seen throughout the city and is not a comprehensive list of all the birds found in Frisco. This checklist was created from eBird and iNaturalist data.

Species	Spr	Sum	Fall	Win
Waterfowl				
Canada Goose	X	X	X	X
Wood Duck	X	X	X	X
Blue-winged Teal	X	X	X	X
Northern Shoveler	X	X	X	X
Gadwall	X	X	X	X
American Wigeon	X	X	X	X
Mallard	X	X	X	X
Northern Pintail	X	X	X	X
Green-winged Teal	X	X	X	X
Canvasback	X	X	X	X
Redhead	X	X	X	X
Ring-necked Duck	X	X	X	X
Greater Scaup	X	X	X	X
Lesser Scaup	X	X	X	X
Bufflehead	X	X	X	X
Hooded Merganser	X	X	X	X
Ruddy Duck	X	X	X	X
Grebes				
Pied-billed Grebe	X	X	X	X
Horned Grebe	X	X	X	X
Pigeons & Doves	X	X	X	X
Rock Pigeon	X	X	X	X

Species	Spr	Sum	Fall	Win	Species	Spr	Sum	Fall	Win
Eurasian Collared-Dove	X	X	X	X	Heron, Ibis, & Allies				
White-winged Dove	X	X	X	X	Great Blue Heron	X	X	X	X
Mourning Dove	X	X	X	X	Great Egret	X	X	X	X
Cuckoos					Snowy Egret	X	X	X	X
Greater Roadrunner	X	X	X	X	Little Blue Heron	X	X	X	X
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	X	X	X	X	Cattle Egret	X	X	X	X
Swifts					Green Heron	X	X	X	X
Chimney Swift	X	X	X	X	Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	X	X	X	X
Hummingbirds					Vultures, Hawks, & Allies				
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	X	X	X	X	Black Vulture	X	X	X	X
Black-chinned Hummingbird	X	X	X	X	Turkey Vulture	X	X	X	X
Rails, Gallinules, & Allies					Osprey	X	X	X	X
American Coot	X	X	X	X	Mississippi Kite	X	X	X	X
Shorebirds					Northern Harrier	X	X	X	X
American Avocet	X	X	X	X	Sharp-shinned Hawk	X	X	X	X
Killdeer	X	X	X	X	Cooper's Hawk	X	X	X	X
Least Sandpiper	X	X	X	X	Bald Eagle	X	X	X	X
Wilson's Snipe	X	X	X	X	Red-shouldered Hawk	X	X	X	X
Greater Yellowlegs	X	X	X	X	Broad-winged Hawk	X	X	X	X
Lesser Yellowlegs	X	X	X	X	Swainson's Hawk	X	X	X	X
Gulls, Terns, & Skimmers					Red-tailed Hawk	X	X	X	X
Bonaparte's Gull	X	X	X	X	Owls				
Franklin's Gull	X	X	X	X	Barn Owl	X	X	X	X
Ring-billed Gull	X	X	X	X	Eastern Screech-Owl	X	X	X	X
Herring Gull	X	X	X	X	Great Horned Owl	X	X	X	X
Forster's Tern	X	X	X	X	Barred Owl	X	X	X	X
Cormorants & Anhingas					Kingfishers				
Anhinga	X	X	X	X	Belted Kingfisher	X	X	X	X
Neotropic Cormorant	X	X	X	X	Wagtails & Pipits				
Double-crested Cormorant	X	X	X	X	American Pipit	X	X	X	X



Species		Spr	Sum	Fall	Win	Species		Spr	Sum	Fall	Win	Species		Spr	Sum	Fall	Win
Woodpeckers						Kinglets											
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		X	X	X	X	Golden-crowned Kinglet		X					Savannah Sparrow	X		X	X
Red-headed Woodpecker		X	X	X	X	Ruby-crowned Kinglet		X				X	Song Sparrow	X		X	X
Red-bellied Woodpecker		X	X	X	X	Wrens						X	Lincoln's Sparrow	X		X	X
Downy Woodpecker		X	X	X	X	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher		X	X	X	X		Spotted Towhee	X			X
Hairy Woodpecker		X	X	X	X	House Wren		X				X	Eastern Towhee	X			X
Northern Flicker		X	X	X	X	Carolina Wren		X	X	X	X		Blackbirds				
Falcons & Caracaras						Starlings & Mynas							Eastern Meadowlark	X		X	X
American Kestrel		X	X	X	X	European Starling		X	X	X	X		Orchard Oriole				X
Flycatchers, Kingbirds, & Allies						Catbirds, Mockingbirds, & Thrashers							Baltimore Oriole	X		X	
Least Flycatcher		X	X	X		Brown Thrasher		X	X	X	X		Red-winged Blackbird	X		X	X
Eastern Phoebe		X	X	X	X	Northern Mockingbird		X	X	X	X		Brown-headed Cowbird	X		X	X
Great Crested Flycatcher		X	X	X	X	Thrushes							Common Grackle	X		X	X
Western Kingbird		X	X	X		Eastern Bluebird		X	X	X	X		Great-tailed Grackle	X		X	X
Eastern Kingbird		X	X	X		Swainson's Thrush							Wood-Warblers				
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher		X	X	X		American Robin		X	X	X	X		Orange-crowned Warbler	X		X	X
Vireos						Waxwings							Nashville Warbler	X		X	
White-eyed Vireo		X	X	X		Cedar Waxwing		X	X	X	X		Common Yellowthroat	X		X	X
Red-eyed Vireo		X	X	X		Old World Sparrows							American Redstart	X		X	X
Shrikes						House Sparrow		X	X	X	X		Yellow Warbler	X		X	X
Loggerhead Shrike		X	X	X	X	Finches, Euphonias, & Allies							Pine Warbler				X
Jays, Magpies, Crows, & Ravens						House Finch		X	X	X	X		Yellow-rumped Warbler	X		X	X
Blue Jay		X	X	X	X	American Goldfinch		X	X	X	X		Black-throated Green Warbler	X		X	
American Crow		X	X	X	X	New World Sparrows							Wilson's Warbler	X		X	X
Tits, Chickadees, & Titmice						Chipping Sparrow		X					Cardinals, Grosbeaks, & Allies				
Carolina Chickadee		X	X	X	X	Clay-colored Sparrow		X	X	X	X		Summer Tanager	X		X	X
Tufted Titmouse		X	X	X	X	Field Sparrow							Rose-breasted Grosbeak	X			
Martins & Swallows						Lark Sparrow		X	X	X	X		Northern Cardinal	X		X	X
Northern Rough-winged Swallow		X	X	X	X	Fox Sparrow		X					Blue Grosbeak	X		X	X
Purple Martin		X	X	X	X	Dark-eyed Junco							Indigo Bunting	X		X	X
Tree Swallow		X	X	X	X	White-crowned Sparrow		X	X	X	X		Painted Bunting	X		X	X
Barn Swallow		X	X	X	X	Harris's Sparrow							Dickcissel	X		X	X
Cliff Swallow		X	X	X	X	White-throated Sparrow		X									
													Playa FRISCO				
													www.playfrisco.org/naturalresources				